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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**FIRST LIFE SENTENCE IN DISTRICT
IMPOSED FOR PRODUCING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that CHARLES M. JOHNSON, JR., 48, Cincinnati, Ohio, was sentenced to life imprisonment today by U.S. District Judge John Daniel Tinder following his guilty plea to two counts of producing child pornography. This was the first life sentence imposed for producing child pornography in the Southern District of Indiana. This case was the result of a several month investigation by the Indiana State Police and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), working as part of the Indiana Crime Against Children (ICAC) Task Force; the Hamilton County (Ohio) Sheriff's Department, the Green Township (Ohio) Police Department, Hamilton County (Ohio) Children's Services, the Hamilton County (Ohio) Department of Job and Family Services, the Family Advocacy Center in Indianapolis and the Indiana Department of Child Services. The entire enforcement operation is in support of the Attorney General's initiative called PROJECT

SAFE CHILDHOOD, which “will coordinate law enforcement efforts to prosecute predators and rescue their victims.”

In announcing the life sentence, U.S. District Court Judge John D. Tinder called the acts committed by JOHNSON, “horrific beyond description.”

On July 27, 2006, JOHNSON pleaded guilty to two counts of producing child pornography. JOHNSON took sexually explicit photographs of a 9 or 10 year old girl identified as Jane Doe. According to the data embedded within the images, these photographs were taken on March 6 and March 18, 2004. On December 16, 2005, JOHNSON was arrested in Cincinnati, Ohio where he lived at the time. His residence was searched. JOHNSON’s computer was seized and several thousand images of child pornography, including the images of Jane Doe, were found during the forensic examination. The images themselves traveled in interstate commerce because law enforcement agents in other states have discovered the images on other offenders’ computers in other states. It is unknown whether these other offenders downloaded these images from the Internet or whether they had developed a trading relationship for the pictures with JOHNSON. JOHNSON gained access to Jane Doe because he provided child care for her while her parents worked. JOHNSON was previously convicted in Kentucky in 1989 for thirteen counts of rape, sodomy, and sexual abuse against two girls under age 12.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Gayle L. Helart, who prosecuted for the government, the break in the case occurred when the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children identified photographs of the child on the internet. They passed their information to the Indiana Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC), who conducted the criminal investigation.

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, said, “The struggle against child exploitation is waged by law enforcement against one offender at a time. Here, Johnson, a prior offender, again has victimized children. This life sentence means Charles Johnson, Jr. will never have another opportunity to hurt a child.”

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